

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 6TH, 2024 // REVELATION

THE MIGHTY ANGEL (REVELATION 10:1-4)

ANOTHER INTERLUDE (CH. 7)

Ch. 9 ended with an angel blowing the 6th trumpet, ushering in the end of all things. Instead of this chapter beginning with the blowing of the 7th Trumpet, **Revelation 10:1-11:14 is another interlude.**

- In chs. 4-9 John recorded what he saw in the throne room and on Earth from a heavenly perspective. Once again, **John is involved in the vision (5:2-5) but from an earthly perspective.**

"I SAW ANOTHER MIGHTY ANGEL"

Some scholars believe that this mighty angel is Jesus because of the similarities in the description of Jesus in Revelation 1:15-16. **There is not another that is like Jesus**, the Son of God, plus **John does not worship this oath-taking angel (5:6)** as he did with the Lamb (1:17).

- **Most scholars believe this mighty angel is probably either Michael or Gabriel.**

STAYING FOCUSED

Since this mighty angel is not named, we can infer that the focus is not on **"Who is the messenger?"** but on **"What is the message?"**

- We will explore all the symbolism in this text, but if we miss the message behind it all, then we miss the point: **God's plan of redemption is beautiful and sweet, but at the same time there is pain, difficulty, and suffering.**

THE MIGHTY ANGEL'S APPEARANCE

John says the angel is **"wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head."** Clouds represent the **power and judgment of God**, while the rainbow represents **God's covenant mercy and promises.**

- The angel is described as having a face **"like the sun"** and legs **"like pillars of fire,"** alluding to **the pillar of fire that guided Israel (people of God) out of Egypt (bondage).**

THE MIGHTY ANGEL'S AUTHORITY

Having his **"right foot on the sea"** and his **"left on the land"** shows the **magnitude of his might** and the **reach of his authority** across the earth.

- In his hand was a **"little scroll"** that was opened. This scroll differs from the one Jesus held, but most likely contained **the written authority given to the angel to fulfill his mission** (possibly, the terrors of judgment that will come to pass).

GOD'S THUNDEROUS VOICE

The mighty angel called out, and **"seven thunders"** sounded. Seven speaks of completeness and perfection, and Psalm 29:3-9 describes God's thunderous voice, repeating the phrase **"the voice of the Lord" seven times.**

- It is possible that this scene may represent **God declaring complete and perfect judgment on the earth.**

SEAL IT UP AND DO NOT WRITE IT DOWN

John was about to record what the "seven thunders" spoke until a voice from heaven told him not to. We do not know why he was forbidden to write it down, but **if God wanted this to be known, He would not have stopped John from writing it down.**

- **God does not withhold what is necessary for us to know Him and please Him.**
- 2 Peter 3:10-11a; NIV

NO MORE DELAY (REVELATION 10:5-7)

ASKED AND ANSWERED

John is **impressed by the angel's might and the solemn oath he took.** By raising his hand and swearing, the angel indicates that **what he is about to say is very important and completely true.**

- The cries of martyrs in 6:10 asked, **"How long,"** and the mighty angel's vow shows that there would **"no longer be a delay"** in the fulfillment of **"the mystery of God."**

"...IN THE DAYS WHEN THE SEVENTH ANGEL..."

God's judgment of the earth when the 7th trumpet blows will not be a single event, but **a series of events known as the seven bowl judgments (Revelation 16:1-21) spanning over a short period of time at the end of the Great Tribulation.**

- **The time of God's patience and tolerance of evil has ended, and the final acts of judgment are at hand.**

THE MYSTERIES OF GOD

In Scripture, a mystery isn't something no one knows, but something that could not be known if it had not been revealed. The mysteries of God are truths He has hidden and will reveal in his time.

- The plan for final salvation and reign of the Church, including the judgment of humanity, Satan, and demons has been a mystery up until this point.

"AS HE ANNOUNCED TO HIS SERVANTS"

Throughout history, the prophets of God have been receiving and communicating the message of His return. He announced His return through His servants, who told humanity that when He returns, **He will reward or punish people based on their choices (Amos 3:7; Matthew 24).**

- **John is the last prophet to warn future generations about the coming of God to Earth.**

THE LITTLE SCROLL (REVELATION 10:8-11)

BON APPÉTIT

John was told, by the same voice he previously heard from heaven, to take the little scroll from the mighty angel, who then told him to **take it and eat it.**

- Similar instructions were given in Ezekiel 3:1-3, where **the prophet was also told to eat a scroll containing the revelation of God to Israel.**

DIGESTING THE PLAN OF GOD

A prophet "eating" a scroll, is an act that is designed to symbolize the necessity of reflecting on and understanding the message.

- **For us as Believers to proclaim a message, we must first take it in (eat). We must possess it in our innermost being (digest) to proclaim something with confidence and effectiveness.**

ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY

What John is doing, like other prophets before him, is **accepting his role as a leader and communicator of the gospel and the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

- At first, accepting the call was "sweet as honey" because of **the joy that comes from doing what God calls us to do.** Then it becomes bitter, as **the hardships of true Christianity** set in: **If we are truly following God's will, we will face hardships.**

WE ALL HAVE A SCROLL TO EAT!

- To eat of something is to digest it. We are to take in God's word, "eat" and "digest" it, by applying it to our lives.
- God's word is sweet and bitter. God's promises are sweet. The reality and consequences of sin are bitter and turn our stomachs.
- We have a responsibility to those around us **to live out and share the message of Jesus.**

WE MUST OWN THIS RESPONSIBILITY

- Practically speaking, this responsibility begins in our homes.
- From there, it extends to **our friends, co-workers, and everyone who crosses our path** in our day-to-day lives.
- Our responsibility extends to our **city, nation, and even to the ends of the earth.**
- **Are we owning this responsibility?**